

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003. Claim 3 was objected to. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-5 were originally presented. Claims 1, 4, and 5 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claim 6 has been added. Claim 6 represents a combination of the elements of claim 1 and claim 3 which included allowable subject matter. No new subject matter has been added in claim 6. In addition, a summary of amended claim 1 has been added to the summary of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under §101 because the Office Action cites that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, claim 4 is cited by the Office Action as positively claiming a person's arm. Therefore, claim 4 has been amended to correct that problem.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 stands rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 2 was rejected for vagueness in defining whether the digit tip pads rotatably move when they contact an object. Claim 2 has been deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 (including independent claim 1) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mimura (PN 5,062,673). Claim 2 has been deleted and the subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1, so only claim 1 will be discussed here.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Mimura. Specifically, the Office Action cited Mimura as teaching a grip device comprising at least two opposable digits, a drive linkage

configured to enable the two opposable digits to grip, and a digit tip pads configured to rotatably connect a digit.

Claim 1 has been amended to include digit tip pads that, “ rotatably contact an object when the tip pad comes in contact with the object to allow the grip to more easily hold gripped objects.”

The Miramu reference fails to teach digit tip pads configured to rotatably contact an object when the tip pad comes in contact with the object. On the contrary, Miramu teaches the use of non-rotatable finger tips that are screwed in to a screw hole (Col. 7 Line 10-13). Unlike the present invention, the Miramu finger tip is unable to adapt to the different angles of the object it is touching.

The present invention discloses digit tip pads that are rotatable, allowing the pads to conform to the angle of the object the pads are touching. This increases the surface area of the contact between the pads and the object they are touching, decreasing the force necessary to pick up an object using the grip device. The rotatable digit tip pads are not disclosed in Miramu. Therefore, Miramu does not anticipate the present invention.

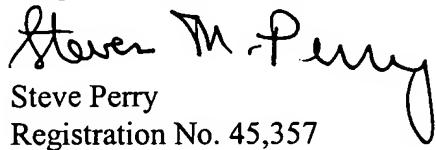
CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Steve Perry at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 13th day of November, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,


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